The Cradle of the Sea

Chapter 1

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The Cradle of the Sea
海のクレイドル 1

永野 明
Nagano Mei

新潮社

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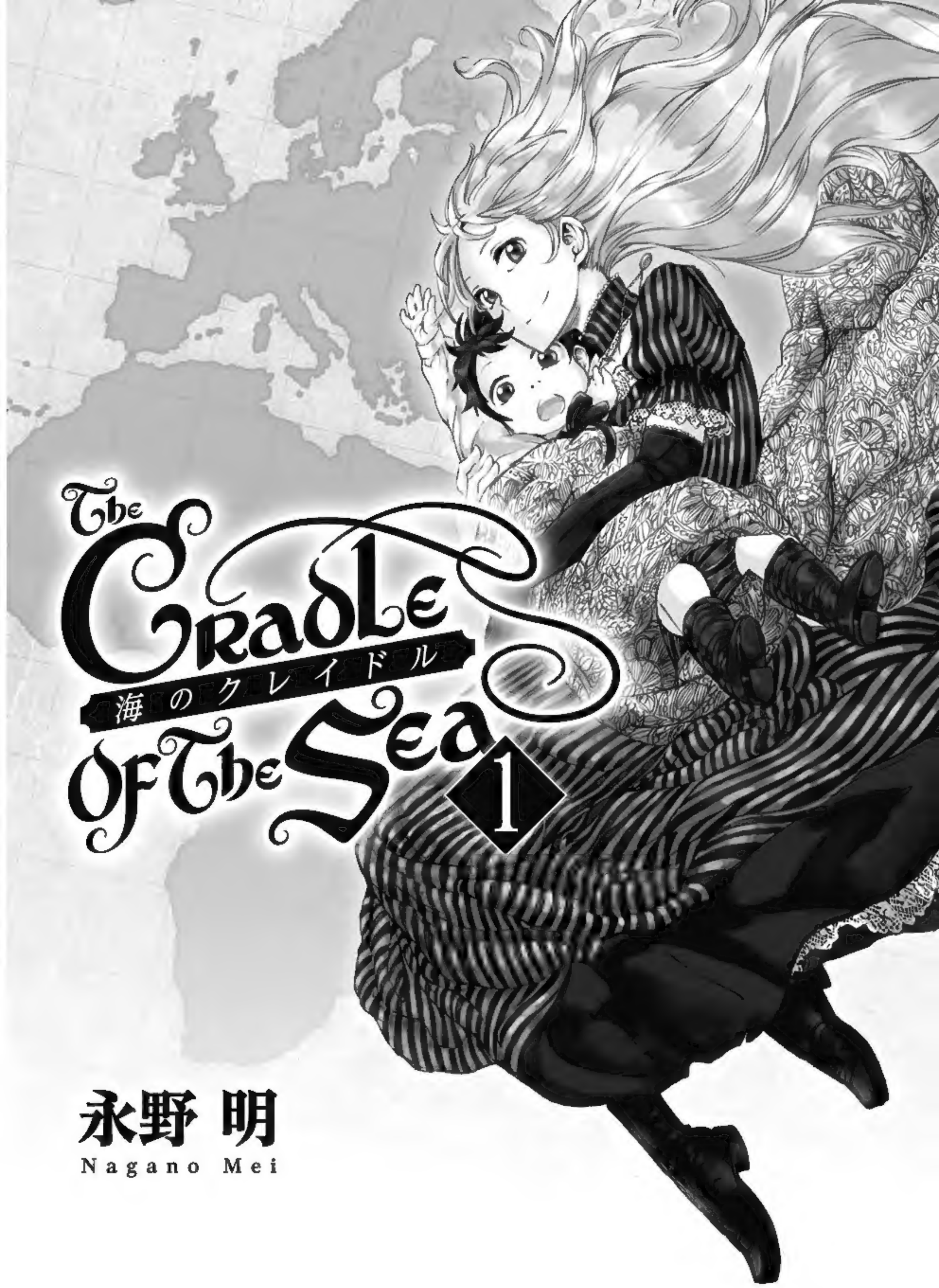

The Cradle Of The Sea

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Chapter 1 - Searching

OH MASTER?

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH FOR, MASTER?

THIS EVER-SWAYING CRADLE...

SWAYING SO GENTLY, CARRYING THIS CHILD...

Chapter 1 - Searching

The Cradle Of The Sea

SFX: SPLOSH

MY WISH, HUH...?

PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU ASK, IT'S ALWAYS TROUBLING.

IN THAT CASE, THEN,

...

I WISH...

THAT LITTLE EVAN GROWS UP HEALTHY AND STRONG.

THAT HE SEEKS OUT WISDOM FOR ITS OWN SAKE,

AND THAT HE LIVES OUT IN THE WIDE WORLD.

AND, MONICA,

THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS STAY BY HIS SIDE.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PROTECT HIM FOR ME?

YES, MASTER...

JANGLE

HAVE YOU COME TO SELL?

CREAK

WHAT DO YOU HAVE...?

I'LL GIVE YOU TWO PENCE FOR IT.

THAT CHEAP STUFF AGAIN?

CLICK
YOU HOME, MONICA?
AND? YOUR TAKINGS?
HIC

AND HOW LONG'RE YOU GONNA WEAR THOSE MOURNING CLOTHES?

Y'R OLD MASTER'S LONG DEAD, I'NN'E.

GLUG

HEY!

DON'TCHA THINK YOU OUGHTA LOOK A LITTLE MORE ASHAMED?!

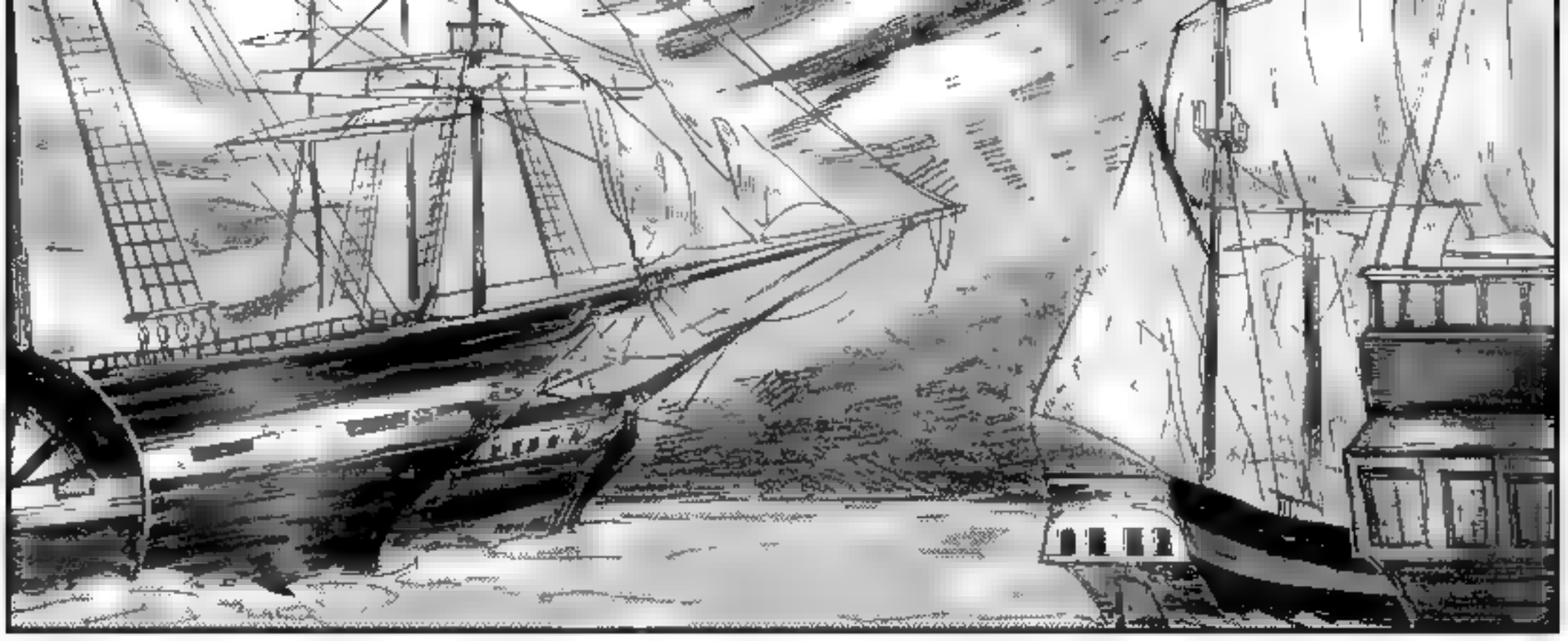
Tch!

THIS ALL?!

YOU'RE DAMN USELESS!

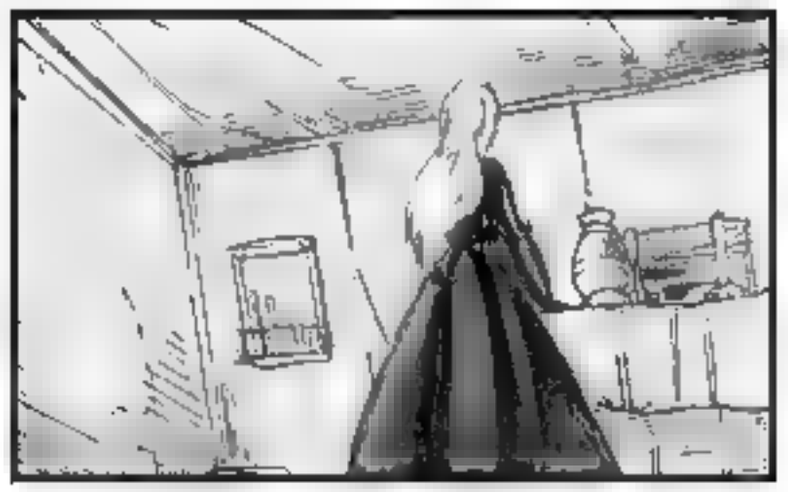
EVEN THOUGH YOU EARNED GOOD MONEY AT THAT GEN'LEMAN'S HOUSE,

NOW YOU JUST WORK AIMLESSLY...



GRAB
?!
C'MERE!

MONICA!



A GEN'LEMAN THAT RUNS A LI'L PLACE HAS CALLED FOR YOU!
SQUEEZE

TAKE OFF THAT DRESS AND CHANGE INTO THIS!

SFX: TOSS

CHANGE INTO THIS BEFORE HE ARRIVES.

SFX: FLUMP

AND THE PAY IS GOOD.

IT'S PERFECT FOR YOU, SINCE YOU'RE TOO LAZY TO WORK.

HA HA.

IT'S GOT FOLKS WITH ALL SORTSA HOBBIES.

THIS PLACE'LL SUIT YOU.

C'MON, WE'RE GOING!

SFX: CLATTER X2

That girl

Look there

Such an unlucky fate

She's clearly going out whoring

My, the poor thing

But she's still a child...

SFX: RUSTLE

I wonder if she's been bought outright?

And at this time of day..?

SFX: RUSTLE

TUG

HUH?

CLICK

CLATTER CLATTER

SFX: RUSTLE

SFX. WHAM

MONICA?!

DIED.

MY MASTER

EVEN THOUGH

THEY NEVER PUBLICLY DISPLAYED THE BODY...

THE SHIP THAT WAS CARRYING HIM TO AMERICA DISAPPEARED AT SEA.

WHILE HE WAS WORKING,

HIS YOUNGER BROTHER DALTON SOON TOOK CHARGE.

CAN'T WE LOOK INSIDE THE CASKET?

THEY SAID...

IT'S BETTER NOT TO SEE...

SFX (STOMP)

MY ELDER BROTHER PAID YOU QUITE WELL...

PLEASE COME IN.

WERE YOU HOPING YOUR CLOSENESS TO HIM WOULD MAKE ME FORGET YOUR SOCIAL CLASS?

BUT YOU'RE REALLY LITTLE MORE THAN AN URCHIN.

I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU WERE EVEN HIS MISTRESS.

I'M SPEAKING AS PLAINLY AS I CAN... YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S TRUE.

NOW THAT I'M MASTER OF THIS HOUSEHOLD, I HAVE NO NEED FOR A GIRL LIKE THAT.

SMILE

NOW...

NEVER BECOME CON-CEITED.

GIVE EVAN TO ME. WE'LL RAISE HIM.

GET OUT.

NOW, AS FOR YOU...

JUST THINK OF IT ALL AS A DREAM.

MONICA...

MONICA...

"DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PROTECT HIM FOR ME?"

= CLENCH =

I'M SORRY...

MASTER...

NOW, NOW...

YOU NEEDN'T GO THAT FAR.

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH WE REALLY NEED TO COME HERE ON THE ANNIVER-SARY OF HIS DEATH!

HONESTLY!

GASP

I'M EVEN RAISING HIS CHILD!

AND WE ALREADY TOOK CARE OF HIS GRAVE AND ITS ARRANGE-MENTS!

I MEAN IT!

HE DIDN'T LEAVE US ANYTHING, AFTER ALL!

WELL, I CAN'T HELP IT, ANYWAY.

HE'S IN THE COACH WITH THE COACHMAN. IT'S NOT AS IF HE'LL HEAR ME, WILL HE?

DON'T YOU FEEL ANY SYMPATHY FOR HIM?

DON'T SAY THAT. THINK ABOUT EVAN.

I CANNOT STAND THAT CHILD!

SFX: RUSTLE

EVAN!

GASP

DRIP

HE'S GOTTEN SO BIG...!

SFX: SCREECH

"I CANNOT STAND THAT CHILD!"

CLENCH

MONICA!

SFX: FLINCH

"DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PROTECT HIM FOR ME?"

HEY! WAIT!

SFX: DASH

WHAT...

WAIT!

AM I DOING?!

THIS IS ABDUCTION!

EVEN IF THEY ARE MISTREATING HIM!

THAT BITCH!

WHERE'D SHE GO?

SFX: TAP X4

Shit.

HEY.

LOOKING AT THIS FEARFUL FACE...!

DRIP

BUT...

ARE YOU OKAY, MISS?

HOOOOONK

TOOT TOOT TOOT

YOU KNOW ...

CLOMP

CLOMP

AH. YES. ...

OKAY! THAT'S GOOD, THEN!

IT WAS JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO,

AT THIS VERY HARBOR, THAT I HEARD SOME NOBLE ASKING TO BUY A CORPSE, AND SAYING THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHOSE...

PHEW

I THOUGHT THEY'D FOUND ME...

AND DID YOU SELL ONE FOR A HIGH PRICE?

THAT'S TERRIB-LE!

HOW MUCH DID YOU GET?

THEY DROVE AROUND IN QUITE A PRETTY CARRIAGE, SAYING "DO YOU HAVE ANYONE WHO'S DIED ON BOARD? IF SO, I WANT THE BODY."

WHAT D'YOU MEAN?

CREAK

AS IF WE'D HAVE HAD ONE TO SELL!

I TOLD HER THAT THE ONLY GRAVE ANYONE HAS ON A SHIP IS THE OPEN SEA!

CLATTER

EVENTUALLY THEY GAVE UP AND WENT HOME WITH AN EMPTY COFFIN.

I GUESS THEY WERE TRYING TO HOLD A FU-NERAL FOR A MISSING FAMILY MEMBER OR SOMETHING?

THEY SURE WERE WEIRD, THOUGH.

"THEY SAID IT'S BETTER NOT TO..."

"CAN'T WE SEE INSIDE?"

ANYWAY, JUST HALF A DAY TO DEPARTURE.

WOBBLE

TAKE US TO THE SHIP, WILL YOU?

SFX. DASH

...?

NOBLE —

CORPSE —

COFFIN—

JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO!

STOMP

NO—

NO—!

CLANG

GASP

CHUNK

CHUNK

CHUNK

CHUNK

CHUNK

CHUNK

CLANG

BUT...

IT MIGHT JUST BE COINCI-DENCE.

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE

BUT...

SFX: RUSTLE

SFX: HOOONK

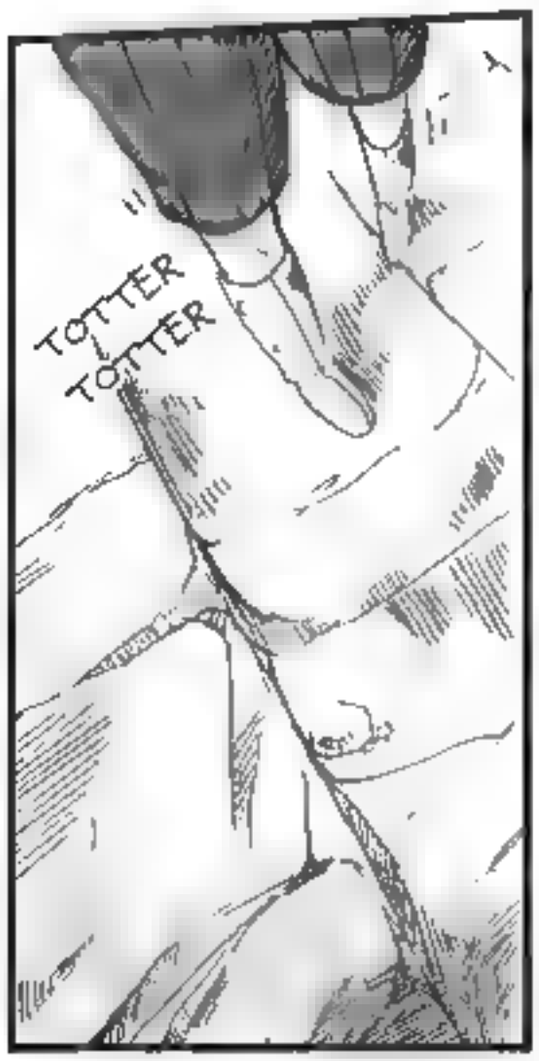
WHERE...

IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

MASTER, IF YOU'RE ALIVE...

SFX: HOOONK

Hnnng!


TOTTER
TOTTER

WOBBLE

WHAT...

GRAB

GRIN

AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

"MONICA."

"MONICA?"

"CAN YOU PROMISE ME SOMETHING?"

SFX SQUEEZE

"CAN YOU PROTECT EVAN FOR ME?"

SFX: HOOOONK

CLENCH

SFX: HOOOOOOOOONK

WHILE TRAVELING ON A BOAT...
HE WENT MISSING...
A BOAT...

"CAN YOU STAY BY EVAN'S SIDE..."

"AND PROTECT HIM FOR ME?"

YES, MASTER.

YES.

WIPE

YES!

PROTECT EVAN.

I'LL DEFINITELY

AND THEN...

LET'S GO SEARCH FOR HIM TOGETHER!

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